

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,  
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

December 12, 1951.

Sir Cyril Hinshelwood,  
Physical Chemistry Laboratory,  
Oxford University,  
South Parks Road,  
Oxford, England.

Dear Dr. Hinshelwood:

I was interested to read in the Journal of the Chemical Society that you and Dr. Dean had not been able to obtain nutritionally deficient mutants of Aerobacter aerogenes by means of the penicillin method. We, too, found that the procedure used with E. coli was not successful with Aerobacter. By a 5-fold increase in the penicillin concentration, however, together with a reduction of the exposure time to 4 hours, Dr. Vogel of this laboratory was able to obtain a variety of amino acid auxotrophs with no difficulty. These resembled closely their counterparts in the E. coli series, most of them being quite stable and easy to maintain if kept in a medium that would not select in favor of occasional reversions. These mutants are, of course, freely available to you.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard D. Davis

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